

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 L-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL CA

SUBJECT: BORDER TV TALKS WITH GOC -- THE EXTAFF APPROACH

REF: OTTAWA 3879, 3694 AND 3679

1. JOHN SHARPE, DIRECTOR, AND JACK WHITTLETON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, USA DIVISION, EXTAFF, MET WITH TCO SEPTEMBER 29 TO DISCUSS LIKELY SCENARIO OF OCTOBER 6 CONSULTATIONS. NEITHER, HOWEVER, WAS VERY FORTHCOMING ABOUT LIKELY GOC APPROACH. THE REFERRED TO MEETING WITH OTHER AGENCIES SHCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON OCTOBER 1 AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION MAIN LINE OF APPROACH NOT YET DETERMINED. BOTH, HOWEVER, INDICATED THEY EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC AFTER FIRDAY MEETING AND WOULD ADVISE.

2. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, WHITTLETON EMPHASIZED THAT THE THRUST OF GOC APPROACH WAS LIKELY TO BE A REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS IDEAS GOC AGENCIES HAD EXPLORED IN EFFORT TO FIND ALTERNATIVE TO DELETION WHICH WOULD MEET US OBJECTIONS AND FACILITATE REALIZATION OF CANADIAN GOALS IN TV AREA. EACH APPROACH POSED ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND GOC WOULD OUTLINE THESE IN HOPE USG MIGHT BE ABLE

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TO REACT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, THEY

SAID WHILE IDEA OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT CONFINING
BROADCASTERS COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY TO THEIR OWN
NATIONAL TERRITORY IS ATTRACTIVE, GOC HAS NOT YET
PREPARED ANY DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. SHARPE AND WHITTLETON ALSO STRESSED GOC
EXPECTATION THAT USG WOULD MAKE ITS OWN PROPOSALS
AS TO HOW ISSUE MIGHT BE RESOLVED.

4. COMMENT: IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THESE
OFFICIALS DID NOT WANT TO GIVE AWAY ANY SURPRISES
THEY MIGHT HAVE FOR US NEXT WEEK, BUT GIVEN
EARLIER REMARKS OF THEIR DOC AND CRTC COLLEAGUES
ABOUT THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF INTERAGENCY DISCUSSION
THAT HAD OCCURRED AS OF EARLY SEPTEMBER, IT MAY WELL
BE THAT THE GOC HAS NOT ADQUATELY FOCUSED
YET ON THE BILATERAL CONSULTATION.
ENDERS

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